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The Effects on Children Living in a Single Parent Household

“One in four children is born to an unmarried mother, many of whom are teenagers.” (Kirby 2012). This statistic showed up when in 1970, the number of single-parent families with children under the age of 18 was 3.8 million then doubled to 9.7 million in 1990. Since then there has been a lot of research done on child living in single parent homes and how it affects their lives. Even though most of the time when a child is being raised in a single household, he or she cannot help it, the child is greatly affected by the way he or she is raised. The child needs a two parent household in order to be properly raised. If the child is not raised in a good family structure, it can begin to affect the child physiologically. Now how it effects the child depends on if the child is male or female and whether the child is raised in a single father or single mothers home.

Mark Mather’s talks about how the number of children living in single-mother families has greatly risen over the past four decades, causing a lot of concern among the public. According to Mathers, researchers have identified the rise in single-parent families, mostly in single mother families, as a major factor for the increase in child poverty in the United States. Some of the effects of living in single-parent households have been shown to go way past the financial side of things. One those are increasing the risk of children dropping out of school, quitting work, and becoming teen parents. Even though many children growing up in single-parent households succeed, others will face major challenges in trying to make the transition to adulthood.